

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KAMPAL 02422 280956Z

10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /137 W

----- 080846

R 280830Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2920

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 2422

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UG IS EG SA LY SU IR

SUBJECT: AMIN EXPLAINS DAYAN TELEGRAM TO ARAB ENVOYS

REF: (A) KAMPALA 2392 (NOTAL) (B) KAMPALA 2393 (NOTAL)

(C) KAMPALA 2408 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT AMIN CALLED IN ENVOYS OF EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, LIBYA, SUDAN, AND IRAQ AND HEAD OF PLO OFFICE JULY 27 TO "ALLAY ANY MISUNDERSTANDING YOU MAY HAVE HAD ON HEARING THAT I HAVE SENT A CABLE TO GENERAL DAYAN." STATED THAT "I KNOW IMPERIALISTS AND ZIONISTS ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL TRY TO GIVE A WRONG INTERPRETATION TO CONTENTS OF MY TELEGRAM... I WISH ASSURE YOU MY POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL HAS NOT CHANGED AT ALL...I DO NOT INTEND TO RE-OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WHEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KAMPAL 02422 280956Z

GOI IS CARRYING OUT AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITIES TOWARDS YOU COUNTRIES

AND ARAB WORLD AND IS CONTINUING TO OCCUPY ARAB LAND."

2. PRES. THEN EXPLAINED REASONS FOR TELEGRAM TO DAYAN IN TERMS SIMILAR TO HIS EXPLANATION TO ITALIAN AMB. (REFTELS BEING REPEATED ARAB POSTS). SAID HE INTENDED TO PAY COMPENSATION TO ISRAEL AND WILL ASK THAT ITALIAN AMB. ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN ISRAELI GOVT AND GOU AFTER SOVIET TEAM COMPLETES ITS VALUATION. STATED THAT GOU HAS CLAIMS OF ITS OWN AND AGAIN ENUMERATED THEM: SECOND-HAND PLANES AND EQUIPMENT SOLD TO UGANDA AS NEW; EQUIPMENT ISRAELIS TOOK FROM ARUA AIRPORT PROJECT WORTH \$34 MILLION (OTHER DAY HE SAID \$28 MILLION). REPEATED OFT-HEARD LINE THAT GOU WAS PAYING ISRAEL NEARLY HALF-MILLION DOLLARS A DAY AND THAT UGANDA WOULD HAVE GONE BANKRUPT, WHICH WAS WHY HE WAS COMPELLED EXPEL ISRAELIS.

3. PRES GAVE EACH ENVOY A LETTER FOR TRANSMITTAL TO HIS RESPECTIVE HEAD OF STATE WHICH HE SAID CONTAINED EXPLANATION OF MESSAGE TO DAYAN.

4. COMMENT: ARAB REPS HERE WERE INDEED BECOMING NERVOUS OVER TELEGRAM TO DAYAN AND IT NOT SURPRISING THAT AMIN TOOK STEPS TO REASSURE THEM. ONCE AGAIN, THOUGH, HIS LANGUAGE WAS RESTRAINED AND ARTICULATE (IN ALL PROBABILITY FONMIN ETIANG HAS BEEN WRITING THESE RECENT AMIN STATEMENTS). SOVIET EMB OFFICIAL MENTIONED THAT SOVIET TEAM MADE SURVEY AT REQUEST GOU AND COMPLETED ITS REPORT LAST SEPT., CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION LEFT BY AMIN THAT TEAM CURRENTLY HERE. FROM SEVERAL SOURCES WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SOVIETS AND ARABS HERE CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT CORDIAL MESSAGE TO DAYAN WAS REALLY AIMED AT USG AND BELIEVE THAT WE ARE UP TO SOMETHING TO GET BACK ON TRACKS WITH AMIN. REINFORCING THIS TO SOME EXTENT WAS THREE-COLUMN LEAD HEADLINE IN JULY 27 VOICE OF UGANDA PROCLAIMING "AMERICANS ARE MORE EAGER THAN EUROPEANS." IRRELEVANT STORY WHICH FOLLOWED WAS REPORT FROM LONDON IN WHICH TWO OR THREE TRAVEL AGENTS DECLARED THAT AMERICANS ARE MORE "ADVENTUROUS" THAN BRITISH AND IF AND WHEN GOU LIFTS TOURIST BAN, AMERICANS WOULD BE ANXIOUS VISIT UGANDA. BECAUSE VOICE IS GOU-OWNED, PLACEMENT OF STORIES, AS WELL AS CONTENT, IS GENERALLY SEEN TO CARRY CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE. WHILE ARTICLE COULD BE TAKEN AS ANOTHER STRAW IN WIND OF APPARENT UGANDAN DESIRE TO SLIGHTLY WARM UP TOWARD US, WE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KAMPAL 02422 280956Z

ARE RELUCTANT TO DRAW TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE FROM IT. ANOTHER SUCH ITEM, REPORTED BY AIRGRAM, WAS JULY 23 FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF AMIN AND GROUP OF GRUMMAN REPS STANDING IN FRONT OF GULF-STREAM DEMONSTRATOR AT ENTEBBE. NEXT DAY THERE WAS A SIMILAR PICTURE IN VOICE. WHETHER OR NOT ALL THESE ITEMS--AMIN'S DECLARATION THAT HE NO LONGER AGAINST US AND UK, HIS TALK WITH MOBUTU, HIS MODERATE SPEECHES RECENTLY, HIS GET-WELL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT, THE TELEGRAM TO DAYAN, ETC.--WHETHER THESE ARE PART OF

SOME PLAN DIRECTED TOWARD US, THEY ARE AT LEAST SERVING TO
KEEP PEOPLE LIKE THE ARABS AND SOVIETS GUESSING. THEY ARE
PERFECTLY AWARE, OF COURSE, JUST HOW UNPREDICTABLE AND MERCURIAL
GENERAL AMIN CAN BE.
BURROWS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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